

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 207714

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207714

EXDIS/TODEP 2

SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 1 FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (TELEGRAPHIC)

FOL REPEAT STATE 207714 SENT ACTION USDEL SECRETARY TOSEC 100423

SEP 2, 1975

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 207714 TOSEC 100423

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 13: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

1. PORTUGAL

LATE ITEM

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS AZEVEDO MAY BE TRYING TO WORK
SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 207714

A DEAL WITH THE MAJOR PARTIES.

--HE MET SEPTEMBER 1 WITH THE PS AND PPD AND COMMENTED
ON TELEVISION THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD NOT PLACE TOO

GREAT SIGNIFICANCE
ON THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF
STAFF.

--THE SEPTEMBER 1 PRESS INDICATES GONCALVES' SWEARING
IN MAY BE POSTPONED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WITH THE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF NOW
ANTI-GONCALVES, CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO GONCALVES IN THE
NORTH IN THE AZORES AND MADEIRA, AND AZEVEDO'S RENEWED
APPROACH TO THE SOCIALISTS AFTER SATURDAY'S STRONG
REBUFF, THINGS SEEM TO BE FITTING INTO THE NINE'S POLI-
TICAL STRATEGY. TOO OFTEN, HOWEVER, WHEN THINGS ARE
GOING THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS' WAY, GONCALVES AND COMPANY
HAVE PULLED ANOTHER FAST DEAL. GONCALVES STILL HAS
THE APPOINTMENT IN HAND AND IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP
THAT HAND OFF THE BIBLE.

A. PRELUDE TO CONTINUING CONFRONTATION

AMID CONTINUING CRITICISM OF THE GONCALVES NOMINATION
BY SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES AND KEY MILITARY UNITS,
PLANS ARE GOING FORWARD FOR THE SWEARING IN OF GONCALVES
AND AZEVEDO ON SEPTEMBER 2. THERE ARE RUMORS MOST
MINISTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY OVER
INTO THE NEW ONE (EXCEPTING LABOR-MARTINS, SOCIAL
COMMUNICATIONS-JESUINO AND VICE PRIME MINISTERS TEXEIRA
RIBEIRO AND ARNAO METELO). ROSA COUTINHO, NOW AT THE
LIMA NON-ALIGNED MEETING WHERE HE SAID PORTUGAL
COULD
LEAVE NATO, MIGHT BECOME NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF, VICE
AZEVEDO. BETTING IS THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME TO
FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

IN CONTRAST WITH THE "NINE", WHO REMAIN QUIET,
SOARES HAS STEPPED UP HIS CRITICISM OF THE GONCALVES
NOMINATION, CHARGING THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 207714

IS "MOVING FROM BAD TO WORSE." SOARES YESTERDAY
REAFFIRMED THE SOCIALIST PARTY DECISION NOT TO ENTER THE
NEW GOVERNMENT UNLESS CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED CONDITIONS
ARE MET. SOARES IS ALSO QUOTED AS QUESTIONING THE
LEGITIMACY OF THE AZEVEDO NOMINATION TO BE PRIME
MINISTER.

MILITARY ATTITUDES REMAIN EQUALLY CRITICAL. THE
MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES IS RUMORED TO HAVE
SENT COSTA GOMES A MESSAGE STATING THAT THE GONCALVES
AND AZEVEDO NOMINATIONS HAVE BEEN POORLY RECEIVED IN
THE AZORES. THE PRESS SAYS THE MADEIRA MILITARY
COMMANDER HAS CALLED FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMED

FORCES ASSEMBLY. UNREST CONTINUES IN NORTHERN MILITARY UNITS; THE LISBON PRESS REPORTED THAT PRO-GONCALVES NORTHERN COMMANDER, CORVACHO, WAS RECALLED TO LISBON SEPTEMBER 1 BY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO. CONTINUING MILITARY DISENCHANTMENT WITH GONCALVES GOES HAND IN HAND WITH RUMORS OF CHANGES OF MILITARY SERVICE CHIEFS BUT A LATE REPORT SAYS FABIAO MAY STAY ON NOW, AND THE PROPOSED NEW AIR FORCE CHIEF, GENERAL LEMOS FERREIRA, IS "MODERATE."

ON THE LEFT, THE RECENT PCP PROPOSAL FOR A BROADER UNITY FRONT, INCLUDING SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS, HAS PRODUCED A SCHISM IN THE RECENTLY CREATED POPULAR UNITY FRONT. THE FIVE FAR LEFT MEMBERS ISSUED A STATEMENT AUGUST 31 CRITICIZING THE PCP PROPOSAL AS "OPENING" FOR RE-CONCILIATION WITH "AGENTS OF CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM" (READ, THE SOCIALISTS).

THE POLITICAL ACTORS REMAIN UNRECONCILED TOWARD EACH OTHER, THE POLITICAL MANEUVERING WILL DRAG ON, THE SITUATION REMAINS FLUID, OPPOSITION CONTINUES, BUT THE FAR LEFT STILL HAS THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE WITH GONCALVES, AZEVEDO AND COSTA GOMES (WHOSE BONA FIDES ARE CLEARLY QUESTIONABLE).

B. WAYS TO REINFORCE PREVIOUS DEMARCHES
SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 207714

AMUASSADOR CARLUCCI SUGGEST THAT NOW MAY BE THE TIME TO COMPLETELY CUT OFF PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO ALL NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

--GONCALVES' NEW POSITION ROBS COSTA GOMES OF ALL OF HIS FORMER RATIONALE THAT PORTUGAL COULD BE TRUSTED BECAUSE NATO SECRETS WERE KEPT "STRICTLY IN RELIABLE (SIC) MILITARY HANDS."

--THE PRO-NATO "NINE" WOULD WELCOME SOME SUCH ANTI-GONCALVES SIGNAL FROM NATO.

--IT ALSO WOULD BE A WELL DESERVED REBUKE TO COSTA GOMES.

CONCURRENTLY, USNATO REPORTS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PANSA CALLED A RESTRICTED MEETING SEPTEMBER 1 TO DISCUSS LIMITING PORTUGUESE ACCESS TO NATO MATERIALS CLASSIFIED SECRET OR HIGHER. THE MISSION COMMENTS:

--THE MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED FALL FAR SHORT OF THE THOSE RECOMMENDED BY EMBASSY LISBON.

--BUT, THEY WOULD RETAIN PORTUGAL WITHIN THE SHELTER OF NATO AND COULD BE EXPLAINED AS DESIGNED TO PRESERVE PORTUGAL'S MEMBERSHIP.

2. ANGOLA: MPLA AND UNITA REPS IN LISBON AGREE TO CEASE FIRE

DESPITE RECENT INDICATIONS THAT UNITA WAS PLANNING AN ATTACK ON MPLA TROOPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH GROUPS IN LISBON HAVE AGREED TO A CEASEFIRE. THE AGREEMENT IS SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY THE MOVEMENTS' LEADERSHIP IN ANGOLA.

CONSULATE GENERAL LUANDA REPORTS THAT PRESS STORIES OF AN INVASION IN THE SOUTH BY WHITE MERCENARIES ARE STILL UNCONFIRMED. PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE OVERFLIGHTS OF THE
SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 207714

REGION HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS.

3. RIGHTIST COUP IN ECUADOR FAILS

AN ARMORED UNIT LED BY ARMY SECOND IN COMMAND, GENERAL RAUL GONSALEZ ALVEAR, ATTACKED THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN QUITO SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 1. ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT GUILLERMO RODRIGUEZ LARA SUCCEEDING IN EVADING THE REBEL TROOPS AND WENT TO RIOBAMBA, ABOUT 150 MILES SOUTH OF QUITO. THE MODERN, MECHANIZED BATTALION STATIONED THERE, AS WELL AS MOST OTHER MILITARY UNITS IN THE COUNTRY, QUICKLY RALLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. TRAPPED IN THE LARGELY DESTROYED PALACE, FINALLY CAPTURED AFTER A BLOODY ELEVEN HOUR SEIGE, THE REBEL FORCES SURRENDERED IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE COUP ATTEMPT, APPARENTLY STIMULATED BY RIGHTIST CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ELEMENTS, WAS A SURPRISE TO US. DESPITE SHARP DISPUTES WITH U.S. PETROLEUM COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY AND A SERIES OF ECONOMIC REVERSES CAUSED BY THE GOE'S STUBBORN ADHERENCE TO HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES, THE RODRIGUEZ GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS TO ALLEVIATE RISING PUBLIC PROTESTS. THE FAILURE OF THE COUP MAY NONETHELESS LEAD TO GREATER GOE AWARENESS OF THE DEPTH OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN A SWIFT RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

THE PASSIVE US ROLE IN THE COUP ATTEMPT MAY BE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION BY THE APPEARANCE OF GENERAL GONSALEZ AND SOME OF HIS STAFF AT THE U.S. EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE REBEL CAUSE. USG POLICY AGAINST GRANTING OF DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM WAS EXPLAINED TO THE VISITORS AND THEY DEPARTED AFTER BEING

PRESENT FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTES. AMBASSADOR BREWSTER IS SEEKING AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ASYLUM REFUSAL.

4. MOZAMBIQUE: AMERICAN MISSIONARIES ARRESTED

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 207714

CONSULATE GENERAL LOURENCO MARQUES REPORTS THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S SECURITY FORCES, MOTIVATED BY THE GPRM'S "OBSESSIVE FEAR OF SUBVERSION BY FOREIGN AGENTS," HAVE ARRESTED RECENTLY A LARGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN MISSIONARIES. THE MISSIONARIES HAVE BEEN JAILED BUT NOT MISTREATED. THE CONSULATE:

--HAS RECEIVED A REPORT THAT ALL AMERICAN MISSIONARIES IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE ARRESTED:

--IS UNABLE TO ASSIST THE DETAINEES BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF OFFICIAL STATUS:

--URGES THAT US HEADQUARTERS OF MISSIONARY GROUPS ESTABLISHED IN MOZAMBIQUE BE ADVISED TO WITHDRAW THEIR PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS FROM THE COUNTRH.

5. TRIPOLI PRESS ALLEGES US BAN ON EXPORTS TO LIBYA

THE LIBYAN PRESS PUBLISHED AN ITEM AUGUST 31 ACCUSING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PROHIBITING US COMPANIES FROM EXPORTING "EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY" TO LIBYA BECAUSE OF LIBYA'S OPPOSITION TO US PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. EMBASSY TRIPOLI COMMENTS THAT THERE IS PROBABLY NO POINT IN MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO CORRECT THIS CLEAR DISTORTION OF OUR POSITION SINCE THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE FACTS.

6. SOVIET GRAIN PURCHASES TO YIELD THEM LESS ECONOMIC WEIGHT

ALTHOUGH THE FULL EFFECTS WILL NOT BE FELT UNTIL NEXT SPRING, EMBASSY MOSCOW PREDICTS THAT THE ANTICIPATED LARGE SHORTFALL IN THE SOVIET GRAIN HARVEST WILL PRODUCE CONTINUED SHOPPING IN THE INTERNATIONAL GRAIN MARKETS. THE SHORTFALL, WHICH MAY PROVE EMBARRASSING TO BREZHNEV:

--WILL REQUIRE SOME DOMESTIC BELT-TIGHTENING;

--MAY RESULT IN SCAPEGOAT-SEEKING AMONG HIGH OFFICIALS, BUT IT WILL NOT REACH TO BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN, OR OTHERS "AT THE PINNACLE."

SECRET

PAGE 07 STATE 207714

THE LARGE PURCHASES WILL STRAIN RUSSIA'S GOLD AND FOREIGN
CURRENCY RESERVES AND SHOULD REDUCE SOVIET BARGAINING
POWER IN ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN MARKET
COUNTRIES.

--IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE RESOURCE SQUEEZE WILL
RESULT IN SOVIET CONCESSIONS IN SUCH CRITICAL NEGOTIATIONS
AS SALT.
INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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